

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 112902
ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY AF/S:JDAVIDOW;DH
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TO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 112902

EXDIS, MADRID FOR A.LAKE WITH VP DELEGATION

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RH

SUBJECT: RHODESIAN INCURSION INTO BOTSWANA

MAPUTO FOR EMBASSY AND AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S DELEGATION

1. YOU SHOULD SEEK APPOINTMENT WITH RHODESIAN REPRESENTATIVE HAWKINS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO CONVEY TO HIM OUR GRAVE CONCERN OVER THE RHODESIAN INCURSION INTO BOTSWANA.

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2. YOU SHOULD DRAW ON THE FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS:

A. WE ARE DEEPLY DISMAYED BY THE INCURSION INTO BOTSWANA, ESPECIALLY AS IT HAS COME SO SHORTLY AFTER WE DISCUSSED THE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE NATURE OF SUCH INCIDENTS WITH YOU.

B. WHAT WE SAID ABOUT THE DAMAGING EFFECTS OF PREEMPTIVE

STRIKES A FEW DAYS AGO, APPLIES EQUALLY TO RETALIATORY OR HOT PURSUIT ATTACKS ON NEIGHBORING STATES. THIS IS ESPECIALLY THE CASE IN REFERENCE TO BOTSWANA WHICH HAS BEEN RELATIVELY UNINVOLVED IN THE FIGHTING.

C. AT PRECISELY THE TIME THAT WE ARE TRYING TO SUSTAIN THE POSSIBILITIES OF A NEGOTIATED END TO VIOLENCE WITH

SKEPTICAL ONLOOKERS AND PARTICIPANTS, THIS ACTION GIVES THE APPEARANCE THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT WANTS TO WIDEN THE WAR, RATHER THAN DIMINISH THE HOSTILITIES.

D. WHATEVER MILITARY ADVANTAGES YOU MAY HAVE GAINED BY THIS INCIDENT ARE VASTLY OVERSHADOWED BY THE POTENTIAL POLITICAL DAMAGE TO THE COURSE OF A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. THIS IS EVEN MORE PROFOUNDLY THE CASE AS THE RAIDS FOLLOWED SO CLOSELY ON KAUNDA'S PRESS CONFERENCE AND THE OPENING OF THE MAPUTO CONFERENCE.

E. IF HAWKINS RAISES ISSUE THAT INCIDENT GREW OUT OF KILLING OF THREE INDIVIDUALS AT PLUMTREE ON RHODESIAN SIDE OF BOTSWANA BORDER EVENING OF MAY 15, YOU SHOULD RESPOND THAT WE DO NOT CONDONE SUCH KILLINGS AND HAVE RAISED THE ISSUE WITH THE GOB. NEVERTHELESS, AS HIS GOVERNMENT IS WELL AWARE THE BOTSWANANS HAVE LITTLE ABILITY TO CONTROL THE GUERILLA FORCES OPERATING IN THEIR TERRITORY.

F. FINALLY, STRESS THAT WHILE WE REMAIN COMMITTED TO CONFIDENTIAL

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ASSISTING IN THE SETTLEMENT PROCESS, HIS GOVERNMENT MUST TRY NOT TO COMPLICATE THE ISSUE FOR US. NOW IS THE TIME FOR RESTRAINT.

3. YOU SHOULD AT YOUR EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY ALSO CONTACT FOURIE, PASSING HIM SUBSTANCE OF MESSAGE TO HAWKINS AND, ONCE AGAIN, URGE SOUTH AFRICAN COOPERATION IN PRESSING FOR RHODESIAN RESTRAINT. CHRISTOPHER

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